Figure 1 The depth gauge as viewed during wrist arthroscopy.

Stripping of the long saphenous vein from groin to the knee can sometimes be incomplete.¹ If a long, strong ligature is used to attach the vein to the stripper it can be controlled at both wounds after passing the stripper. Tie the ligature onto a length of ribbon gauze and pull this down through the saphenous tunnel to exit at the knee wound. This gauze frequently brings the saphenous vein remnant with it (Fig. 1) providing a simple method for completing the strip. The gauze also evacuates haematoma from the tunnel and can be soaked in local anaesthetic with adrenaline.

Reference

1. Nisar A, Shabbir J, Tubassam MA, Shah AR, Khawaja N, Kavanagh EG *et al.* Local anaesthetic flush reduces postoperative pain and haematoma formation after great saphenous vein stripping – a randomised controlled trial. *Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg* 2006; **31**: 325–31.

Technique for dealing with incomplete stripping of the long saphenous vein

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Figure 1 Use of ribbon gauze to remove saphenous vein remnant.